

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
March 15, 2022

Members in attendance :

Latosha Dixon, Chair, Carly Conor Reim, Co-chair, Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,
Rachel Donovan, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore

Absent: Lauren Cochran, Brian Petro-Roy

Also attending: Lorena Betts

Call to Order 7:08 pm.

This meeting is being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. It is recorded.

Approval of minutes of March 1, 2022, meeting

T. Dzuris made a motion to approve the 3-1-22 minutes. C. Reim seconded. Motion carried.

Upcoming Events

March 26, 2022, 9-11. Diversity summit hosted by Rotary District 7910. L. Dixon will send the link to register for the summit.

March 27 1:00-2:30. History of Chelmsford, presented by the Chelmsford Historical Society, Amanda Silvia

Working Group Updates

Education

S. Mackinnon put forth two initiatives:

Chats with students about experiences in the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Forum with sports coaches, parents, and students – speaking up against harassing. What to do if you are in the present in the face of racist or other harassing behavior.

Lattimore spoke to Daniel Hart, sports director at CHS – in favor of our ideas.

Michele Shannon Westford facilitated the Restorative Justice webinar held in Westford. Perhaps she can bring the conversation to Chelmsford.

Mackinnon, Lattimore, Dixon, and Cochran will work on these projects.

Land Acknowledgment

The Land Acknowledgment proclamation was signed by the Select Board and presented to Latosha Dixon at the meeting on March 14. The working group, including Library staff, will continue to work on this, for instance, securing grants for placards. They will discuss reaching out to other community groups.

Women's History Month

Working group – L. Dixon, R. Donovan, T. Dzuris

Spotlighting local "heroes"

1-community service

2- business owners

3- advocates of the senior population

Donovan acknowledged almost 600 engagements on the post of local leaders!

LGBTQA+ Listening Session

Tentatively scheduled for May 9 (at the McCarthy School auditorium, with virtual option?) SB will host. DEIC will organize and promote it. L. Dixon, R. Donovan, T. Dzuris will work on this.

Juneteenth

Consensus was that we should all contribute work on this. There is not a leader for this working group. C. Lattimore will reach out to artists she has contacts for.

The “playbook” from last year’s Juneteenth event will serve as a model for this year.

L. Cochran talked to members of the Black Student (Union) Alliance at the high school about helping. Guest Lorena Betts wants to volunteer.

Dixon suggests Saturday, June 18th as the date to avoid Sunday for church goers, as many of the potential performers are very involved in their churches. There were no objections to that date. A recommendation was made to get food vendors on onboard ASAP so they can get DOH license.

Meeting schedule

Meetings will be every other Tuesday. Next Meeting will be virtual.
March 29, 2022, at 7pm

Requests for agenda:

Watch it Wednesdays

Education initiatives

Finance update

Community outreach

LGBTQ+ partnership with Patrick Snow and Rainbow Chelmsford

Parade – flags and banners? (SB policy states “town owned property.” Would they revise it to town “government” buildings?)

Adjournment

Dzuris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Donovan. Meeting adjourned 8:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,
Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee